

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092309
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JR
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NSC:WQUANDT
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EUR:AHUGHES
A:JCONDAYAN
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S/S:SESTEINER

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O 232259Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092309

EXDIS, FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: CARTER/ASAD MEETING IN GENEVA

1. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH DAOUDI OF PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
TO EXPLAIN OUR PRESENT THINKING AS REGARDS ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE MAY 9 MEETING IN GENEVA BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS
AND TO SEEK SYRIAN CONCURRENCE.

2. PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE HAVE BEEN EXPLORING WITH SWISS AUTHORITIES AN
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APPROPRIATE SITE FOR THE MEETINGS. OUR OWN PREFERENCE IS
FOR THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL. SECURITY WOULD BE
ADEQUATELY MAINTAINED THERE, AND THE HOTEL HAS THE
ADVANTAGE OF EXCELLENT COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER FACILITIES
FOR THE MANY NEWSMEN WHO WILL BE INTERESTED IN REPORTING
ON THE MEETINGS. (FYI: THE GENEVA POLICE HAVE PREFERRED
A SITE--SUCH AS A CHALET--FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC AND ALL

OUTSIDERS COULD BE DENIED ACCESS, UNLIKE A HOTEL. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL SHORTLY COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SWISS ON USE OF THE INTERCONTINENTAL. END FYI).

-- WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE U.S. AND SYRIAN PARTIES BE ACCOMMODATED IN PRECISELY IDENTICAL SUITES ON THE SEVENTEENTH FLOOR OF THE HOTEL. THE PRESIDENTS WOULD GO UP TO THE EIGHTEENTH, OR TOP FLOOR, FOR THEIR MEETINGS. WE ARE SURE THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT TO THE ENTIRE SATISFACTION OF THE U.S., SYRIA, AND SWITZERLAND.

-- IF THIS MEETING SITE IS AGREEABLE TO SYRIA, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS PARTY ARRIVE AT THE HOTEL AT 3:00 P.M. ON MAY 9. (HE WILL HAVE ARRIVED AT GENEVA AIRPORT AT 2:30 P.M.) UPON ARRIVAL AT THE HOTEL, THE PRESIDENT EXPECTS TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE SWISS CHIEF OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTER FOR ABOUT 10-15 MINUTES.

-- WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS BEGIN AT 3:30 P.M.

-- PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD LIKE TO HOST A WORKING DINNER FOR PRESIDENT ASAD AND HIS PARTY FROM 6:00 TO 7:00 P.M. (SINCE HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO PROPOSE THAT THE TWO LEADERS MEET).

-- THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR A POR-CONFIDENTIAL

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TION OF HIS VISIT WITH ASAD TO BE A PRIVATE DISCUSSION, WITH ONLY ISA SABBAGH PRESENT TO INTERPRET.

-- THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO RETURN THAT NIGHT TO LONDON. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THESE MEETINGS IN GENEVA WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME TO DISCUSS ALL THE ISSUES THOROUGHLY AND, AS SECRETARY VANCE HAS ALREADY MENTIONED TO KHADDAM HERE, THE PRESIDENT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH ASAD.

3. PLEASE REPORT SYRIAN REACTION SOONEST.
VANCE

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NNN

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